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THE
COLUMBUS
REGION

150 South Front St, Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215

T (614) 225.6060
columbusregion.com

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Elliot:

On behalf of Columbus2020!, I am writing to express our support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our state/region, but across the nation. The Columbus Region is a well-known hub for advanced logistics operations, and a robust rail network both in our area and throughout the United States. Continued investment by rail providers and the public sector is critical for so many of our companies that create jobs and invest in our communities.

Columbus2020! is a public/private economic development organization focused on growing our regional economy in Central Ohio by attracting and retaining innovative companies. To that end, we believe healthy re-investment in the freight rail network supports job growth and continued economic recovery.

We oppose policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

Thank you for our consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Kenny McDonald
Chief Economic Officer